Air Reserve Personnel

UPDATE

HQ Air Reserve Personnel Center, Denver, Colo.

Vol. 4, Issue 2

March/April 2003

Assessment mandated for pay, points

By TSgt. Devin Fisher *Editor*

As reported in the January/February edition of the *Air Reserve Personnel Update*, more than 70 percent of individual mobilization augmentees, or IMAs, are in jeopardy of being ineligible to participate for points and pay because they have not completed their annual health assessment.

The annual requirement for a Reserve Component Periodic Health Assessment, or RCPHA, replaced the five-year physical Oct. 1, 2001.

Despite 18 months since the change, low compliance rates have forced senior leaders to take a stronger approach.

"Failure to accomplish the required examinations by May will affect a member's participation, pay and points for all training and their ability to complete a satisfactory year," said Col. K.C. McClain, ARPC commander. "However, failure to accomplish the exams does not prevent you from being mobilized."

Though this may seem like a drastic measure to ensure compliance, the action of moving a reservist to a "no pay-no points" status complies with Air Force Manual 36-8001, Reserve Personnel Participation and Training Procedures, and Air Force Instruction 48-123, Medical Examinations and Standards.

According to Col. (Dr.) Michael Daniels of the ARPC Health Services Individual Reserve Programs Directorate, or ARPC/SG, IMAs are making progress toward meeting medical fitness currency.

For example, in mid-January, 79 percent of the IMA force were non-current in one or both mandated annual medical and dental examinations. As of Feb. 1, SGP received more than 3,500 assessments and dental exams. By the end of March, the compliance rate improved by 8 percent, an improvement, Daniels said, directly attributable to IMAs taking the initiative to complete the assessments.

And although progress has been made, he noted that there is still a long way to go to meet the May deadline.

"Of the IMAs activated for Operation Iraqi Freedom, more than 70 percent are still not current," said Daniels.

Due to the slow response from IMAs, ARPC's commander stepped up the effort by mailing all IMAs an RCPHA package, complete with all the forms and instructions on how to schedule, complete and return the necessary paperwork to ARPC.

As noted in the previous article, the RCPHA consists of a Reserve Component Health Risk Assessment, or RCHRA; an SF 600 overprint tailored to gender, age and flying status; a dental examination; and an immunization record review. The RCHRA and SF 600 overprint must be completed by a military health provider.

The dental examination, however, may be completed by either a military dentist using the SF 603A, *Health Record – Dental Continuation*, or a civilian dentist using the DD Form 2813, *Department of Defense Reserve Forces Dental Examination*.

Reservists are encouraged to complete their RCPHAs during their annual tour or inactive duty for training, or IDT. IMAs unable to complete the exams during their scheduled duty periods may submit an AF Form 40a, *Record of Individual Inactive Duty Training*, for one non-paid point upon completion of the exams.

To start the process, RCPHA instructions and forms are available directly by entering arpc.afrc.af.mil/sgp/forms_pubs.htm. A less direct approach is by entering the ARPC Web site, going to the Main Topics page and then clicking on the stethoscope icon.

"We encourage IMAs to notify their program manager or BIMAA with problems accessing exams," said Daniels. "Also, we encourage them to make copies of their completed assessments before sending them to ARPC/SGP."

He noted the best option is to scan the completed documents and either e-mail them to **arpc.sgpdl@arpc.denver.af.mil** or send them via fax to at (303) 676-7589, Attention: HQ ARPC/SGP.

For IMAs being demobilized, they need to complete both DD Form 2796, *Post Deployment Assessment*, and DD Form 2697, *Medical Assessment for Separation*, before leaving active duty. However, since these only document health changes during mobilization, neither is a substitute for the RCPHA (see story Page 2).

IMAs are asked to e-mail inquiries related to tracking medical records to **arpc.sgpdl@arpc.denver.af.mil**. For more information, call ARPC/SG at 1-800-525-0102, ext. 71236, (303) 676-7237, or DSN 926-7236.

Inside this issue

- 2 Pentagon monitoring deployment healthcare
- 3 Law protects activated private sector employees
- 5 Leaders announce new core competencies
- 8 Airmen can file taxes online for free

Pentagon monitoring deployment healthcare

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample American Forces Press Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AFPN) — Defense Department officials have changed the way they track and assess healthcare provided to military people before, during and after deployments, a senior Pentagon health official said Feb. 11.

DoD's new strategy emphasizes health care surveillance of deployed people, said Dr. Michael Kilpatrick, deputy director of the Deployment Health Support Directorate here.

For Reserve members being demobilized, they need to complete both DD Form 2796, Post Deployment Assessment, and DD Form 2697, Medical Assessment for Separation, before leaving active duty, according to Col. Linda McHale, director of health services individual reserve programs.

Because these assessments are only an update on changes that might have occurred during mobilization, neither is a substitute for theReserve Component Periodic Health Assessment, or RCPHA (see story Page 1).

Officials want no repeat of 1991 Gulf War health care problems, referring to widespread instances reported of deployed people returning home with incomplete and poorly maintained medical records and improperly monitored illnesses.

Kilpatrick said DoD officials are concerned with taking care of the health of military people and their families.

"To do that optimally, we need to provide preventive care," he said. "And if a servicemember becomes ill or is injured, we need to provide treatment for (him or her)."

After a deployment, he added, people need to know that DoD will provide them with care for any medical problem they may develop.

This strategy is designed to help the department track servicemembers' diseases and injuries and to provide them comprehensive follow-up treatment for deployment-related health conditions, he said.

Kilpatrick directs the DoD effort to protect the health of deployed servicemembers. He said there was no unique screening being done before deployment during the Gulf War.

"If you were on active duty, you were generally assumed to be deployable," he said.

Now, he said, Defense Department officials plan to see that force

health is closely monitored through a series of medical assessments before and after deployment and that health concerns are documented and closely monitored.

Kilpatrick said the pre- and post-deployment health assessment is a short series of questions that look to see if troops are physically and psychologically prepared to deploy. The forms can be found on DoD's deployment Web site at **www.deploymentlink.osd.mil**.

The health assessments are done on paper and checked by a physician "to see if there are any changes in servicemembers' health

or condition that may require attention before or after they deploy," Kilpatrick said.

Later, the forms are sent to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., where they are scanned electronically and retained for analysis.

Defense Department officials established three deployment health centers, one each for health surveillance, health care and health research.

They focus on the prevention, treatment and understanding of deployment-related health concerns.

Two centers are at Walter Reed; the third is at the Naval Health Research Center in San Diego.

The department will improve deployment-related medical record keeping through its Composite Health Care System II and the Theater Medical Information Program, which is still being tested.

The defense medical surveillance system programmers created a database on diseases military people may encounter in deployed areas.

Another plan is to send preventive medicine and environmental surveillance teams to for-

ward-deployed areas to evaluate health threats on the battle-

Another measure calls for improved biological and chemical warfare detection and alarm systems. And Pentagon officials are researching current vaccines and anti-malarial drugs and exploring next-generation vaccines and drugs, he said.

Kilpatrick said the new program shows how seriously DoD officials regard force health protection.

"We've learned a great deal from deployments over the past 12 years since the Gulf War, and we intend to use those lessons to benefit those who serve today," Kilpatrick said. "That's what this program is all about."

Air Reserve Personnel UPDATE

The Air Reserve Personnel Update is a funded Class II U.S. Air Force newspaper published for individual

reservists. It is a product of HQ ARPC. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the U.S. Air Force or the Air Force Reserve Command. Local reproduction is authorized and encouraged. For information, call DSN 926-6515, (303) 676-6515; (800) 525-0102, Ext. 71217 or e-mail devin.fisher@arpc. denver.af.mil. Send address changes to HQ ARPC/

DPSSA/B, 6760 East Irvington Place #4000, Denver, CO 80280-4000.

Editorial Staff

Commander, ARPC	. Col.	K.C. McClain
Director of public affairs Lt.	Col.	Thomas Deall
Editor	TSat	Devin Fisher

Air Force implements Stop Loss

By Judy James

Director, personnel program management

Approximately 34,000 Ready Reserve members, to include 5,300 individual mobilization augmentees, are impacted by an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) decision to implement Stop Loss effective May 2.

Forty-three officer and 56 enlisted specialties across the total force (active duty, Air Force Ready Reserve and Air National Guard) are affected by Stop Loss in order to retain specific skills needed to meet national security objectives.

"We do not take this action lightly," said Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche. "Stop Loss is designed to preserve critical skills essential to supporting the Global War on Terrorism, while ensuring we're prepared to meet other contingencies."

"We've implemented Stop Loss to ensure we have the necessary skilled personnel to conduct operations," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper. "We'll use it only as long as necessary to accomplish our mission."

Stop Loss policy will be reviewed on a 60-day cycle. As operational requirements change, AFSCs and/or other categories of personnel may be released from or added to Stop Loss.

"We will continue to carefully reevaluate the scope of Stop Loss as dynamics of operational requirements evolve," said Lt. Gen. James Sherrard, chief of Air Force

Affected AFSCs

Stop-loss will be implemented on the following Air Force specialty codes (regardless of prefix/suffix except where indicated) beginning May 2:

Officers

11AX	11BX	11EX	11FX	11GX
11HX	11KX	11RX	11SX	11TX
12AX	12BX	12EX	12FX	12GX
12KX	12RX	12SX	12TX	13BX
13DXA	13DXB	13MX	14NX	31PX
32EX	43EX	43HX	43TX	44EX
44MX	45AX	45BX	45SX	46FX
46MX	46NXE	46SX	48AX	48GX
	48RX	51JX	71SX	

Enli	sted				
1A0>	(X ´	1A1XX	1A2XX	1A3XX	1A4XX
1A5>	(Χ ´	1A7XX	1A8XX	1C0X1	1C1XX
1C2>	(X ´	1C3XX	1C4XX	1C5XX	1N0XX
1N1)	(Χ ΄	1N200	X1N2XX	1N3X4	1N3X5
1N3>	(6* ´	1N3X7*	1N3X8*	1N3X9*	1N4XX
1N5>	(X ´	1N6XX	1S0XX	1T1XX	1T2XX
2E2>	(1 2	2F0X1	2T3X2A	2T3X2B	3C0X1
3C2>	(1 3	3E000	3E0X2	3E4X1	3E4X2
3E5>	(1 :	3E7X1	3E8X1	3E9X1	3H0X1
3N0>	(X 3	3P0XX	4A1XX	4A2XX	4B0XX
4E0>	(χ <i>Δ</i>	4H0XX	5J0X1	7S0X1	8D000
9L00	0		*Apı	r 03 Conu	ersions/

Reserve and commander. Air Force Reserve Command.

"When feasible, we will release the maximum number of reservists possible and allow significant time -- at least 45 days -to ensure smooth transition."

Both the secretary and chief of staff are acutely aware that the Air Force is an allvolunteer force and that this action, while essential to meeting the service's worldwide obligations, is inconsistent with the fundamental principles of voluntary ser-

"We take Stop Loss seriously and are working hard to ensure the lives of our airmen, their families and their civilian employers are not disrupted any longer than is necessary to meet our national commitments," Jumper said.

The Air Reserve Personnel Center will be sending notification letters to affected IMAs in the next few weeks.

Those with unique circumstances may apply through a waiver process. The ARPC Directorate of Personnel Program Management manages this process. However, IMAs must first go through their chain of command, to include their program manager, with any requests for waiver.

"We are doing our best to minimize this disruption," Roche said. "And we will look at unique circumstances on a case-bycase basis and do all we can to offer appropriate relief."

For more information about Stop Loss, IMAs should contact the Air Reserve Personnel Center Customer Service Branch at 1-800-525-0102, Ext. 71388 or DSN 926-6528/6730. (AFNS contributed to this article.)

Mobilization may affect child support responsibilities

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - Mobilized reservists who have a child support order can seek assistance from their state child support agency, especially under the following circumstances:

□ Level of income has changed or will change as the result of mobilization. They may be eligible for the agency to review and adjust the amount of their support order.

□Support payments are being withheld from military paycheck. The state agency can ensure the withholding is transferred to the

Defense Finance and Accounting Service on a timely basis to prevent or minimize missed payments. Reservists can ask their civilian employer to tell the state agency about their deployment and to provide other needed information.

☐ A child support hearing is scheduled. The agency can tell the court or hearing officer about the reservist's service status and can attempt to have the hearing rescheduled.

☐ The child support order includes health care coverage. Children of mobilized reservists are eligible for Tricare health coverage, and the agency may be able to help enroll them in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, a prerequisite to obtaining

If people owe \$5,000 or more in past-due support, their passports are withheld until arrangements are made with the state child support agency. Some states require the debt to be paid before the passport is made available, this includes personal passports or those used for official duty.

Along with a base legal office, information is available on the following Web sites:

□www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/extinf.htm#exta (State and local IV-D agencies on the Web) and

□www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/pol/im-01-09.htm (OCSE Information Memorandum IM-01-09).

The Department of Defense provides assistance at the following Web site: https://www.jagcnet.army.mil/Legal under "family law matters." (AFRC News Service)

ARPC provides mobilization guidance

By SSgt. Shauna Walker Personnel readiness center

The current executive order authorizes mobilizing members under Title 10, U.S. Code Section 12032 Partial Mobilization to support Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Noble Eagle and Operation Iraqi Freedom for up to 24 months.

The months do not have to be consecutive, but can be divided into increments of mobilization as long as the aggregate total does not exceed 24 months.

During this time period, members accrue leave, active duty points and are afforded the benefits of active duty members. In

addition, members are entitled to medical care for their families and authorized to use all base facilities.

Since the current operations are covered under one executive order, members who have served under this order for a total of 24 months cannot be recalled involuntarily until another executive order is signed by the president.



However, IMAs who have been mobilized and subsequently demobilized, can volunteer on military personnel appropriation, or MPA, mandays to assist in ongoing operations.

Each major command/agency is using members in a volunteer status to support

the current operation. Once a member performs 30 consecutive MPA mandays they

are entitled to the same benefits as a mobilized member.

In the past 18 months, the ARPC Personnel Readiness Center has mobilized more than 3,900 IMAs, with approximately one-third of that force remaining mobilized for a second year.

Many of the IMAs who have been mobilized or are participating in a volunteer MPA status are being used in a "forward deployer" role, standing next to their active duty counterparts versus backfilling active duty positions back at home station.

IMAs play a key role in ac-

complishing the Air Force mission both at home and abroad.

IMAs interested in volunteering for duty, can sign up on the ARPC Web site at arpc.afrc.af.mil under "Volunteer Reserve Resource Roster Form," or by contacting their IMA program manager.

Guard, Reserve Tricare policy announced

WASHINGTON (**AFPN**) — Defense Department officials announced March 12 policy changes to Tricare Prime and Tricare Prime Remote programs for members of the national guard and reserve and their families.

Starting March 10 family members of guardsmen and reservists on federal active-duty orders for more than 30 days are eligible to enroll in Tricare Prime and use the access standards and cost-shares associated with the program.

"Previously, sponsors had to be eligible in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System and activated for 179 days or more before family members were eligible to enroll in Tricare Prime," said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. "The Department of Defense recognizes the contributions and sacrifices made by these families each and every day. Our commitment is to continue making improvements to the Tricare benefit to enhance access and quality of care these families receive."

Guard and Reserve family members who reside with their sponsors in a Tricare Prime Remote location at the time of the sponsor's activation can now enroll in the Tricare Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members program.

For family members to be eligible to enroll in this program, sponsors and their family members must reside at a location that is at least 50 miles or more, or approximately a one-hour drive from the nearest military treatment facility. Sponsors and family members also must be identified as eligible in DEERS.

"It's important that we take care of the families of our reserve

component members," said Thomas F. Hall, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs. "We want to ensure that our mobilized national guard and reserve members aren't worried about who's caring for their families while they're gone and to return them to families whose health-care needs have been met by the military health system."

Contract changes are under way at Tricare Management Activity to implement the new remote policy. Once the changes are accomplished, family members of the guard and reserve sponsors activated for more than 30 days may start using the benefit, which has no co-payments, deductibles or claim forms to file, and which offers providers who meet rigorous standards for providing quality health care.

Guard and reserve family members who choose not to enroll in either the Tricare Prime or remote program may still use the Tricare Standard and Extra benefits, with applicable cost-shares and deductibles.

Guard and reserve sponsors need to verify that DEERS information for themselves and their family members is accurate and up-to-date. They can contact DEERS at the Defense Manpower Data Center support office toll free at 1-800-538-9552. Sponsors and family members can also update their addresses in DEERS on the Tricare Web site at http://www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERSAddress/.

Future updates regarding benefits for members of the Guard and Reserve and their family members will be posted on the Tricare Web site at http://www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve.

Leaders announce new core competencies

By MSgt. Scott Elliott Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Air Force's senior leaders debuted the service's new approach to describing its core competencies in mid-January.

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper made this announcement in two separate messages to all airmen. Roche released his first "The Secretary's Vector" Jan. 14, while Jumper's latest "Chief's Sight Picture" was published Jan. 15.

The competencies are developing airmen, technology-towarfighting and integrating operations. According to Roche, these three elements are fundamental to how the Air Force views itself, how it is viewed by leaders and colleagues, and how the service develops its capabilities for joint warfighting.

"These unique institutional qualities set the Air Force apart from the other services and every other military force in the world," Roche said in The Secretary's Vector. "By identifying and keeping these competencies foremost in our vision, we can more effectively advance these unique capabilities, as well as the ultimate effects we provide to the nation."

These core competencies are not new, Jumper said in the Chief's Sight Picture.

"Rather, they are the unique institutional qualities inherent in everything we've done and continue to do," he said.

Core competencies form the foundation upon which the Air Force organizes, trains and equips, and form the cornerstones of the service's strength as a military service, Roche said.

Previously, the service had distilled its areas of expertise into the following six distinct capabilities and labeled them core competencies: air and space superiority, global attack, rapid global mobility, precision engagement, information superiority and agile combat support.

According to the secretary and chief of staff, the Air Force's very nature of developing and delivering air and space power are at the root of the need to recognize these core competencies.

"Our systems may change, our threats may vary, our tactics may evolve and our people may come and go, but these three core competencies remain the constants that define our Air Force and enable us to fight and win America's wars," Jumper said.

Of the three air and space core competencies, the secretary and chief of staff said developing airmen is the heart of combat capability.

"The ultimate source of combat capability resides in the men and women of the Air Force," Roche said. "The values of strategy, tech-





nology and organization are diminished without professional airmen to leverage their attributes."

Technology-to-warfighting involves the tools of combat capability.

"We combine the tremendous technological advancements of stealth, global communications connectivity, global positioning, and more, to put cursors on targets and steel on the enemy," Jumper said. "It is our unique ability to apply various technologies in unison so effectively that allows us to translate our air and space power vision into decisive operational capability."

They believe integrating operations means maximizing combat capabilities.

"Innovative operational concepts and the efficient integration of all military systems — air, land, maritime, space and information — ensures maximum flexibility in the delivery of desired effects across the spectrum of conflict," Roche said.

According to Jumper, victory in the 21st century belongs to those who can most quickly collect intelligence, communicate information and bring capabilities to bear against targets around the globe.

"This is precisely what our Joint and Combined Air Operations Centers achieve," he said. "The result, integrated operations, is our unique ability to ... bring effects on the enemy at times and places of our choosing."

By continually striving toward the air and space core competencies, they said, the Air Force will realize the potential of its capabilities.

"We can achieve success in these six distinctive capabilities only if we're first successful in our three (air and space) core competencies," Jumper said. "Only then do we bring the decisive effects of air and space power into joint warfighting."

"Collectively, the air and space core competencies reflect the visions of the founders of airpower ... and serve to realize the potential of air and space forces," Roche said.

"Our continued focus on and nurturing of these core competencies will enable us to remain the world's greatest air and space force," he said.

Legal professionals gather for survey of law

By Lt. Col. Tom Deall Director of public affairs

With the cancellation of the Annual Survey of the Law in 2002 due to the Sept. 11 attacks, attorneys and paralegals gathered at the Marriott Hotel in the Denver Technological Center for the 2003 world-wide event.

An activity covering the better part of three days, the annual survey is a chance for all Air Reserve Component legal professionals to gather and discuss law applications, lessons learned and perspectives from numerous senior leaders including their first guest, Maj. Gen. Joseph Lynch, mobilization assistant to The Judge Advocate General, or TJAG.

In what was his last address to a survey audience as mobilization assistant to TJAG, Lynch said the key to success in the legal profession is understanding the vision and overarching objective of the program. This understanding, he explained, comes by focusing on relevance, interoperability and accessibility.

Lynch said that members of the TJAG corps must be engaged in duties relevant to the mission and Air Force-related. An important point to senior leaders, relevance is an issue of understanding the profession and making sure JAGs maintain key positions within the force.

To be interoperable, Lynch said reservists must be able to take

any active duty position without missing a beat. They must be seen as professionals who have all the skills and background to step in without sacrificing the mission.

Finally, he said that the real test of Reserve value is accessibility.

"The Air Force should be able to reach out and touch us," Lynch said. "We must maintain our level of proficiency so we are ready to get into offices when needed, and, at the same time, provide unique skills not found on active duty."

Joining the survey on day two, TJAG Maj. Gen. Thomas Fiscus, reiterated the importance of the Reserve force and the development of future aerospace leaders.

"Our senior officer force has been specific in focus and training," Fiscus said. "We need to target officers toward broader concepts. To do this, we'll start with the officer force and then migrate to the enlisted corps. I recommend this order because paralegals usually already have other disciplines to their credit."

Looking toward the future, Fiscus dis-

cussed manning and the coming transition associated with the Quadrennial Review, or QDR. He said that while a business approach ensures the defense department is a good steward of tax payer money, it's as important to make sure the focus of the people and equipment stays consistent with Air Force Core Compentencies. Since uniformed resources are expensive, refining is necessary. However, those wearing the uniform should remain "the teeth rather than the tail."

Simply put, legal professionals are an integral part of the fight and a valued resource to senior leaders in all commands.

To that end, TJAG pointed to the role of the Reserve force when integrated with active duty counterparts. Recognized throughout the Air Force senior leadership, the Reserve force is better than it's ever been providing a strong base to fulfill commitments.

And perhaps the most significant demonstration of the JAG corps' importance is end strength stability. Though the force was drawn down, the attorney ranks have not. With many reasons for this, three

First, the recognition that there are more lawyers because there is more ligitation.

Second, legal professionals are inherently governmental.

Third, if we don't keep pace, we quickly become a target of opportunity for litigation machines who set their sights on governmental deep pockets.

And in this time of considering greater cuts, Fiscus closed by quoting Gen. George Washington who, when asked if he could reduce his troops to 1,000, said, "That will be fine. I'll be happy to limit our force to 1,000 soldiers as long as you limit the enemy to 1,000 soldiers."

With the survey behind them, attorneys and paralegals were treated to some final thoughts by Brig. Gen. James Swanson, Headquarters Air Mobility Command staff judge advocate. With a blend of serious-

> ness and humor, Gen. Swanson talked about management by leadership.

> He said that despite past efforts at promoting management theories such as zero defect, management by objective and total quality management, no theory can replace strong leadership which can range from the style of the late Fred (Mr.) Rogers to Benito Mussolini.

> However, Swanson said the ideal style, like most things, lies somewhere in the middle which he narrowed down to 10 characteristics. He said a leader is...

> □ Passionate about their institution and committed to mission accomplishment;

□Competent and ethical in his or her pro-

□Someone who leads by example specifically through integrity, loyalty and selflessness;

☐Trusting of other people;

☐ Inoculated against, "not invented here" syndrome;

■Not afraid to enforce standards;

☐Aggressive in praising and rewarding



The Judge Advocate General Maj. Gen. Thomas Fiscus discusses the importance of the Reserve force.

good performers;

□Able to recognize sycophants for what they are;

□Willing to share the spotlight; and

☐Accessible to his or her people.

"The Defense Department has never been stronger," Swanson said. "And to all who share in wearing the blue uniform I ask you to remember that you are more important now to our Air Force than ever before and I thank you."

Civitans salute chaplains' ministry

By Lt. Col. Tom Deall

Director of public affairs

A group of men and women committed to community service since 1917, Civitan International dedicated their time and service recently to commemorate its Clergy Appreciation Week. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Philip Miller, directorate of chaplain individual Reserve programs, Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center, served as the keynote speaker at the Aurora, Colo., Civitan Club's luncheon Feb. 13.

Whether ministering to men and women in air wings or aboard ships, the clergy has stood side by side with servicemembers since the days of America's founding fathers. In his address to Civitan members, Miller began with the motto "E pluribus unum," which means "Out of many, one."

Tracing this motto back to the country's origin, it is believed to be a clear reference to the 13 colonies united into one nation.

Miller said that along with tracing its roots back to the early days of this country, the motto also speaks of a nation that brings together people of many backgrounds to form today's United States. He said that the culture of modern America is much more complicated than ever before.

"Despite the complications, everyone has one important thing in common," said Miller, "the constitutionally-based right to the free exercise of religion for everyone and not just a select few."

He noted that this is especially true for members of the military.

"People begin their military life with different beliefs," Miller said. "But despite these differences, they have to come together to a point of unity. In the Air Force, that point of unity is our core values of integrity, service before self and excellence in all we do."

Miller emphasized that the core values are not just words, but are meant to become flesh through action. And on Feb. 3, 1943, four chaplains put those values to action when they gave their lives so others could live.

In honor of these four men, Miller said, for the first time in 2002 the Air Force awarded chaplain servicemen with "The Award of the Four Chaplains." Like the four chaplains, recipients are recognized for their extraordinary service and commitment to help others.

"The story of the four chaplains is not a storyboard or a myth," said Miller. "It really happened. Four flesh and blood human beings gave their lives in icy waters. This was a real value. It was truly living core values as they put them into action."

The story of the four chaplains takes place on a cold morning in 1943 aboard the USS Dorchester, a vessel that was to become another statistic of ships lost at sea.

With 905 men aboard, the Dorchester was en route to Greenland when it left its convoy. A Nazi submarine that followed the Dorchester, fired a torpedo which exploded in the boiler room causing the death of many instantly.

Of those who survived, panic ensued as they found themselves pushing into darkness not realizing the ship was sinking. Once on the top deck, they found themselves getting into overcrowded lifeboats which eventually capsized. They also witnessed rafts drifting away before they could be reached by anyone.

Four flesh and blood human beings gave their lives in icy waters.

Chap. (Lt. Col.) Philip Miller ARPC Directorate of chaplain individual Reserve programs









Amid the panic and terror, Army Chaplains George Fox, Alexander Goode, Clark Poling and John Washington moved to help calm the frightened men. They directed survivors to lifeboats and distributed life vests.

They soon ran out of life vests while having to face four young soldiers who remained onboard. Without hesitation, the four chaplains took their vests off and gave them to the soldiers.

According to official records, the four men of God (one Catholic, one Jewish, and two Protestant) gave their only means of survival away for the sake of others. While rowing away from the sinking ship, men reported seeing the chaplains clinging their arms to each other. With arms linked and heads bowed, they prayed to "the one God whom each of them loved and served."

Along with the four chaplains, the Dorchester sank in the icy North Atlantic taking with it 675 men.

Inspired by the four chaplains beginning in Albuquerque in 1960, Clergy Appreciation Week is observed each year by Civitan clubs to show appreciation for ministers, rabbis and priests who serve their community.

For information about the chaplain service, call (303) 676-6480 or 6481.

Deployment offers tax options; not filing not among them

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - Mobilized Air Force reservists deploying overseas are not automatically excused from filing their federal income tax return, according to Air Force Reserve Command staff

judge advocate officials here.

Deploying reservists have four options when it comes to filing taxes. They can file before they leave, authorize their spouse or trusted friend to sign and file for them, have their non-military or non-deploying spouse sign and file their joint tax return on their behalf, or use an extension if authorized.

Before deploying: If reservists have not received their Form W-2 in the mail,

they can access it online by using a personal identification number via "My Pay Account" on the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Web site at https://emss.dfas.mil/mypay.asp.

Most active-duty locations offer a tax assistance program.

Members can electronically file their returns and opt for direct deposit of any refund into their checking accounts.

Authorizing another to file: To allow someone else to sign and file their return, reservists must:

☐Be unable to sign the return because of disease or injury,

☐Be absent from the United States for a period of at least 60 days before the due date for filing the return, or

☐Get permission from the Internal Revenue Service office in their area to have an-

other person file on their behalf

They can authorize their agent to sign and file by using a special power of attorney or by using IRS Form 2848, which is available on the Web at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-fill/f2848.pdf.

Filing a joint return: In this situation, a special power of attorney or IRS Form 2848 is not required. Married couples filing separate returns cannot take advantage

of this option.

Using an extension: Deployed military people can usually take advantage of a filing extension for service in a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area. Before claiming these extensions, reservists should check with a tax preparer or a legal assistance officer to ensure that the area where they are deployed has been declared a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area.

To find out what a state requires when reservists are deployed, they should consult with a tax preparer or a legal assistance officer. Some states have rules that are similar to the federal rules. (AFRC News Service)

Free online filing offered

ST. LOUIS (AFPN) — The Treasury Department, Office of Management and Budget and the Internal Revenue Service in Washington launched a new Web site Jan. 17 allowing taxpayers to prepare and file their taxes online for free.

President Bush proposed free online tax filing last February as one of his egovernment initiatives. Less than one year later, millions of Americans will benefit from free online tax filing services.

Free File is an easier, faster and secure way for citizens to file taxes and will also allow Americans to get refunds in half the time, said officials.

Free File primary candidates are those taxpayers who prepare their own taxes and still file paper returns. Last filing season, the IRS received nearly 85 million paper returns, while nearly 47 million e-filed returns.

"Free File puts e-file within reach of more taxpayers than ever," said acting IRS Commissioner Robert Wenzel. "They'll soon discover what the 47 million taxpayers who e-filed last year already know: e-file is quicker, e-file is more accurate, e-file is the best way to confirm the IRS received your return, and it's the fastest route to a refund."

A Free File initiative fact sheet, which includes a list of the FFA members and frequently asked questions, can be found on the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov.

Law protects activated private-sector employees

WASHINGTON – In mid-January, Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao unveiled updated information to help reservists preparing to be deployed understand their rights to pension and health benefits coverage available through private sector employers.

"Military reservists should have confidence that while they are serving their country on active duty their job pension and health benefits will continue for their families," Chao said.

"That is why we have developed information to familiarize reservists and family members with the federal law that protects these benefits.

"Many troops will be called to serve. This represents a great sacrifice by reservists, guardsmen and employers who must carry on without the services of these valuable employees during our fight against terrorism and to preserve the freedom cherished by Americans."

"Frequently Asked Questions for Reservists Being Called to Active Duty" provides basic information about how retirement benefits of reservists are protected during service to their country. It also describes the rights of family members to maintain health coverage, including the right to keep coverage under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, and the many health benefit options available to family members.

A copy of the questions and answers can be obtained on the department's Web site at www.dol.gov/pwba. People may call with questions through PWBA's toll-free employee and employer hotline at (866) 275-7922 or electronically at www.askpwba.dol.gov. (Air Force Reserve Command News Service from a DoL news release)

Survey designed to help airmen, their families

By SSgt. C. Todd Lopez Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – A survey designed to gauge the Air Force's success in building communities is set for distribution in April.

The 2003 Community Assessment Survey will be sent out service-wide, said Maj. Jim Whitworth, the Air Force's director of family advocacy research and project officer for the survey.

Whitworth said the assessment this year will include approximately 30,000 reservists and their families. This is the first time the Air Force Reserve has been involved in the assessment. He said the Air Force will use the survey results to learn how to better help its people.

"We want to find out what people really need and what would help them make their communities and lives in the Air Force better," Whitworth said. "The assessment goes out to active-duty members and reservists and their spouses. Many of our reservists and families reside several hundred miles from their Reserve unit. It is imperative we understand and address the issues they face."

Variations of the assessment have been conducted once every 24 to 30 months since 1993. This year, around 1,800 people at each of 85 active-duty installations and several hundred from each reserve installation will be asked to take the assessment. Those taking the survey will be randomly chosen, and

the survey is completely anonymous.

Questions on the assessment, Whitworth said, cover basic needs by asking about "key areas necessary for building strong communities."

"These areas include a person's sense of community, family adaptation, safety, spiritual well-being, health and well-being, economic well-being, and preparedness," he said.

The questions ask about the availability of community resources and how connected, or a part of the community, people feel. For example, one question asks members if they feel there are enough places on their installation to spend time with co-workers after duty hours. Another asks members about their relationships with their supervisors.

Assessment results, Whitworth said, will not fall on deaf ears. In fact, bases have used past results to make changes in the services they provide on base and even in the services and options available to those off base.

Whitworth said the key to the success of the assessments is that Air Force leaders will be better able to help their people help themselves.

"We've found the most powerful way to help people is to help their informal networks – to help people establish more and better friendships, to help them get to know their neighbors and get involved in their community," Whitworth said.

Active-duty members and reservists will

'We want to find out what people really need and what would help them make their communities and lives in the Air Force better.'

Maj. Jim Whitworth

Air Force director fo family advocacy research

be notified about the assessment by e-mail, while spouses will be notified by postal mail. Airmen can complete the assessment on a designated Web site, and spouses have the option of completing it on paper.

The effectiveness of the assessment depends totally on participants' willingness to accurately complete it, Whitworth said. It is designed to take less than 20 minutes to complete.

"Our goal is to make improvements in building stronger communities without guessing, so we need to know people's thoughts and needs," he said. "If people don't tell us what they need or identify areas where we can improve or what the problems are, it will be much harder to reach our goal.

"We urge all active-duty, reservists, and family members who receive these assessments to take the time to complete the assessment and help us strengthen our Air Force communities. This assessment is their chance to do that."

Briefs

Address changes

Reservists can verify their mailing address is correct and make updates through the Virtual MPF, or vMPF, located at https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afpcsecure/.

Changes made in Virtual MPF automatically update the Military Personnel Data System, or MilPDS.

Reservists are encouraged to update their address using the vMPF, however, other methods are available. They include:

☐Submitting an address change via the ARPC Web site, at http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/dpssab/custservice.htm; and

☐Notifying ARPC customer service of the address change via:

❖E-mail, address.changes@arpc.denver. af.mil: **\$**Fax, (303) 676-6298 or DSN 926-6298;

❖Letter, HQARPC/DPSSA/B, 6760 E. Irvington Place, Denver, CO 80280-4010; or

❖By phone, 1-800-525-0102 or DSN 926-6528/6730.

Reservists should include their mailing and residence address if they are different.

Travel delays

IMAs held on tour beyond their original departure date need to have their supervisors sign them out on their orders on their actual day of departure.

In the rare event of travel home delayed by circumstances beyond the member's control (i.e., inclement weather, cancelled flights, etc.), members should include a full justification with their travel youchers. Justification should explain the situation and include any verifying documentation, such as cancelled flight information.

In order to receive pay and allowances for an additional travel day, additional documentation may be required by the reserve pay office.

Locating program managers

Program managers serve as IMA and PIRR primary points of contact for many personnel, financial and reserve matters.

Every IMA/PIRR has a major command or agency to which they are assigned, and the program managers are the individuals who work at these commands/agencies, usually in the reserve affairs offices. They are usu-

- See **BRIEFS** Page 10

Briefs

Continued from Page 9 -

ally the approving official for RPA and MPA orders.

ARPC receives many phone calls from IMAs trying to identify their program managers.

IMAs can determine who their program managers are by looking at the PAS Code on their assignment orders (3rd and 4th digits of the code indicate the major command/agency—or MAJCOM ID), or the MAJCOM ID on their personal information page in WOTS.

IMAs/PIRRs should then visit the ARPC Web site at **arpc.afrc.af.mil** and click on the site map to locate the "Program Manager/POC Listing."

Once this file is open, scroll down until locating the desired MAJCOM ID, and then find the phone numbers for the assigned command or agency.

IMAs can check on the status of their RPA orders in WOTS at any time; however, other questions regarding their tours, should be directed to their program manager.

ARPC sets annual tour request deadline

In order to meet required financial deadlines mandated by Lt. Gen. James Sherrard, commander, Air Force Reserve Command, all FY03 IMA annual tour requests are due to ARPC by May 30.

All requests must be submitted through the Web Orders Transaction System, or WOTS, prior to May 30 to provide program managers processing time.

IMAs should contact their major command program managers for their imposed deadlines.

Annual tour requests received at ARPC after the May 30 deadline must include a justification explaining why the request was late. Late requests will be reviewed at ARPC on a case-by-case basis.

Regarding substitution, Air Force Manual 36-8001, para 1.2.1, states that program managers may request the

substitution of military appropriation, or MPA, manday tours in support of contingency (real-world) operations for annual tour and inactive duty training, or IDT, requirements.

These requests must be submitted and approved in advance of the tour; h owever, ARPC/DPAF will accept these substitution requests for those supporting contingency operations for FY03.

Program managers should submit these requests as soon as the requirement is identified.

IMAs newly assigned after April 1 are not required to perform an annual tour unless it is necessary to meet unique mission requirements or retention/retirement year requirements for a good year.

WOTS is located at https://wots.afrc.af.mil/wots/.

Medical profession news

Participation requirements

AFMAN 36 – 8001, Reserve Personnel Participation and Training Procedures, paragraph 1.3., describes unsatisfactory participation as "failure to meet requirements." Participation requirements for the medical IMA vary by squadron.

For those assigned to the 9019th Air Reserve Squadron, or ARS, the minimum requirements are at least 50 points per year and achieved through the following: 15 points for membership, 12 points for performing annual tour, or AT, and 24 inactive duty training, or IDT, points (12 days). This will give you at total of 51 points. IMAs must complete their AT and IDTs within the fiscal year and their retention/retirement dates.

The requirements for those assigned to the 9026th ARS are the same — 50 points. However, points may be granted for continuing medical education activity.

As the program manager, ARPC/SG conducts an annual review of all IMAs failing to meet participation requirements. HQ ARPC/SGE has 90 days to provide written justification to retain each member listed on the unsatisfactory participation roster. Some IMAs

were contacted this year, advised of their unsatisfactory participation and provided written documentation supporting their retention.

Those that do not respond are automatically reassigned to the inactive reserve or discharged, as described in AFI 36-3202, *Separation Documents*. One time waivers are permissible.

IMAs with questions about their requirements for participation should contact HQ ARPC/SGE at 1-800-525-0102, Ext. 71232, or DSN 926-7158.

Upgrade training

According to AFI 36-2618, *The Enlisted Force Structure*, NCOs must attain and maintain a skill level commensurate with their rank and maintain a high degree of proficiency in their awarded specialty as outlined in their Career Field Education and Training Plan.

Here are two steps IMAs can take to ensure they meet the requirements:

☐Assist their supervisor with completing their AFSC core tasks and the duty related tasks that are found on their unit's Master Task Listing.

□Follow-up with their supervisor to ensure their upgrade paperwork is submitted to the unit training manager.

EMT training, recertification

For the 4N0X1, being a National Registry Emergency Medical Technician, or NREMT, or state paramedic is a requirement to maintain their skill level.

The requirement to maintain NREMT status is:

☐For the NREMT-Basic: Complete 24 hours of refresher training, 48 hours of continuing education, and be current in basic life support.

□For the NREMT-Intermediate: Complete 36 hours of refresher training, 36 hours of continuing education and be current in basic life support.

□For the NREMT-Paramedic: Complete 48 hours of refresher training, 24 hours of continuing education, and be current in advanced cardiac life support.

More information on NREMT requirements is available at **www.nremt.org**. State paramedics can find out more through their state emergency medical services office.

JAG and paralegal news

AT requests by April 30

Although ARPC's deadline for annual tour submissions is May 30, IMA judge advocates and paralegals are asked to have their Web Orders Transaction System, or WOTS, requests in by April 30.

This will allow sufficient time to ensure all are in compliance.

Volunteer opportunities

Current climate exemplifies the need to be able to draw IMA judge advocate and paralegal resources quickly and efficiently.

The goal is to take into consideration the IMA's desires regarding duty beyond the minimum annual tour and IDT participation requirements, whether for an additional two weeks or to mobilize for a year or more.

This will not be a substitute for tours posted on the Share the Wealth page, but those of high priority and/or sensitivity, including mobilizations.

ARPC/JA has easy access to this informa-

tion through WebFLITE's ROSTER, but the information is only as good as the information provided by the IMA.

Information *must* be entered by the IMA as explained below, nothing entered will be interpreted that the IMA is available and willing for anything.

Please keep in mind this is only a preference and the mission must alway come first.

To select a preference:

□Go into WebFLITE's ROSTER

☐Select 'Update Personal Data' on the top left side of the page

☐Select the 'Volunteer' button on the left side near the bottom

☐Use the drop-down menus to indicate preferences

☐Once complete, select the 'Submit' button

This is an opportunity to ensure the remainder of the data in ROSTER is also current by using the other buttons on the left side of the screen.

Once everything is updated, it's time to certify the data is current.

To accomplish this:

☐Select the 'Certification' button on the left side

☐Select 'Certify Data'

And it's done. This should be checked regularly to ensure currency. This will help ensure TJAG's Department Reserve is ready and able to serve our country whenever, however and wherever needed.

MA changes

It is time to bid farewell to Maj. Gen. Joseph Lynch, mobilization assistant to The Judge Advocate General, as he retires from the Air Force Reserve. Brig. Gen. Richard Roth, formerly the MA to the Deputy Judge Advocate General, was selected as his successor.

Col. Loren Perlstein, formerly the Reserve Advisor to TJAG, is now the MA to DJAG

And finally, Col. F. Andrew Turley left the Air National Guard to become the Reserve Advisor to TJAG.

Congratulations to all!

Chaplain news

Specialized annual tours

At least once in a career, IMA chaplain service personnel should consider specialized annual training at Lackland AFB, Texas, or the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Basic Military Training at Lackland and Basic Cadet Training at the Air Force Academy offer exciting opportunities for ministry in a career-broadening setting.

Chaplain service personnel wanting to spend their annual tours this way should request orders through the Web Orders Transaction System, or WOTS, by April 1 following approval from their wing chaplain.

Chaplain service conference

Be sure to include the 2003 Worldwide IMA Chaplain Service Conference in your summer plans. Formerly called the National Workshop, the last event of this nature was held in February 2001.

This year's conference takes place in Denver Aug. 4-7. IMAs should plan to arrive in Denver Aug. 4 and depart Aug. 8. Registra-

tion information will be sent via mail and posted on the ARPC Web site.

The conference affords attendees the opportunity to bond with the IMA Chaplain Service program, interact with other members, become better known by those who direct the individual reserve program, get face-to-face answers to their questions, and, most importantly, catch up on important readiness training.

Every IMA Chaplain Service member should be present for this conference. Watch the ARPC Chaplain Service Web site for registration details.

Get on the Leading Edge

The USAF Chaplain Service Web page, located at **www.usafhc.af.mil**, provides a wealth of information relevant for all chaplain service personnel.

There are links for the Chaplain Service newsletter (*Leading Edge*), communications, readiness, education, resources, faith groups, prayer, major commands, Guard and Reserve, chaplain services, and the Air Force. A must read for all chaplain service person-

nel in the *Chaplain Service News* section is the readiness resources link. Reservists can download the *Mentoring Handbook* and review the updated *Strategic Plan*.

Enlisted upgrade training

Many IMA chaplain assistants are crosstrainees who have to catch up on skill-level training to assume duties appropriate to their rank.

Enlisted members who delay completing upgrade training jeopardize their career. Please send a courtesy copy of documentation of completed training to ARPC/HC.

Periodic health assessments

Every Air Force member – including IMAs – must get the annual periodic health assessment, or PHA, as soon as possible.

IMAs can't work for pay or points without it. Remember, it's not a physical examination, and it doesn't take long to accomplish. IMAs must ensure their PHA is kept up-to-date if they want to be eligible for annual training or other paid duty.

Career management news

Correspondence courses earn retirement points

By SSgt. Yosheta Rea Military training division

Reservists may earn additional retirement points by enrolling in Air Force Institute for Advanced Distributed Learning, or AFIADL, correspondence courses.

AFIADL offers specialized courses to any one regardless of rank or Air Force specialty in addition to the standard Professional Military Education courses.

Course titles and number of points earned are subject to change without notice. Course descriptions are available at local Air Force base education offices or on the AFIADL Web site at www.maxwell. af.mil.au/afiadl.

To enroll in a course, IMAs/PIRRs can submit their request via the ARPC Web site at **arpc.afrc.af.mil**, under "Education and Training."

IMAs/PIRRs will be asked to provide the following information: name, rank, Social Security number, complete mailing address with zip code plus four digits, course number and title; (test location TCO number is

Professional military courses	Course No.	Tests	Pts	Max Time
CAP Officer Course	13	1	16	1 year
USAFR Officer Preparatory	17	1	27	1 year
History Of US Air Power	50	1	32	1 year
Specialized courses	Course No.	Tests	Pts	Max Time
Civilian Personnel Mngmt (CD-ROM)	0C200M	1	16	6 months
Radiation Safety Officer (CD-ROM)	B6RS0M	1	16	1 year
Bioenvironmental (CD-ROM)	B6ERBM	1	16	1 year
USAF Ergonomics (CD-ROM)	B6ERPM	1	16	1 year
AF Joint Serv Superv Safety	1900	1	7	1 year
CAP PA Officer	2010	1	9	1 year
Aircraft Maintenance Officer	21A1	1	35	1 year
CAP Scanner Course	2130A	1	3	1 year
CAP MSN Observer	2130B	1	4	1 year
CAP Emergency Services	2130D	1	5	1 year
CAP Safety Officer Course	2170	1	3	1 year
Nursing Services Fundamentals	46A1	1	23	1 year
Intro Quality Functions	6601	1	9	1 year
Intro to AF Provisioning Mgmt	6608	1	9	1 year
Quality Mgmt	6613	1	5	1 year
Air Res Forces Social Actions	7340	1	4	1 year
Public Affairs Officer	7920	1	25	1 year
Crime Prevention	8100M	1	10	1 year
Crime Prevention	8100X	1	10	1 year
Declassification Training	0Z100	1	13	1 year
Personnel Clerk	0C203/0X203	1	16	6 months
AF Supervisor's Course (CD-ROM)	0C300M	1	8	6 months
Affirmative Employment Course, Part I	3C106	1	16	6 months
Affirmative Employment Course, Part II	3C107	1	8	6 months
Position Classification Course (CD Rom)	0C221M	1	14	6 months
Labor Management Relations (CD Rom)	0C233M	1	53	6 months

normally the closest base to your location).

IMAs/PIRRs should contact the military

training division at 1-800-525-0102, Ext. 71330 or DSN 926-6396 for more information.

PM concurrence vital to EAD recall

By SMSgt. Sharon Ryder-Platts Career opportunities branch

One of the most important pieces of an application for recall to extended active duty, or EAD, is the major command Reserve program manager -- or central manager for HC, JA and SG personnel -concurrence.

For individual mobilization augmentees applying through the Air Force Personnel Center, the concurrence will be in the form of a letter indicating release from the Reserve is approved upon acceptance for recall.

For reservists applying through the active duty recruiting service, the concurrence is the signature on the DD Form 368, *Request for Conditional Release*.

It is important to understand that only the major command Reserve program manager, or central manager, has the authority to concur or non-concur with the release from their Reserve assignment and the Air Force Reserve.

The active duty supervisor or com-

mander from the unit of assignment or attachment does not have that authority. Packages without the appropriate approval are delayed in processing.

It is important to note that mobilization is not an exception. Although a mobilized reservist is on EAD, temporarily, they must apply for the recall programs in the same manner. Administrative control for mobilized reservists remains with the Air Force Reserve; therefore, requiring the concurrence of their major command Reserve program manager, or central manager, to process their application.

Reservists who are not certain what major command they are assigned to or who their Reserve program manager, or central manager, is may call the ARPC customer service section at 1-800-525-0102, Ext. 71388 or DSN 926-6528/6730.

For more information on recall to EAD application procedures, reservists may contact the career opportunities branch at 1-800-525-0102, ext 71333 or DSN 926-6408.

HOARPC/PA
6760 E. IRVINGTON PL. # 1010
DENVER, CO 80280-1010
DENVER CENTER
OFFICIAL BUSINESS